



Fire Safety

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 34765).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2010 • This workbook was updated in April 2012.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Phone No.: _____

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about improving this workbook to: Workbooks@USScouts.org

1. Do the following:

- a. Demonstrate the technique of stop, drop, roll, and cool.

Explain how burn injuries can be prevented. _____

- b. List the most frequent causes of burn injuries. _____

2. Explain the chemistry and physics of fire. _____

Name the parts of the fire tetrahedron.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Explain why vapors are important to the burning process. _____

Name the products of combustion. _____

Give an example of how fire grows and what happens. _____

3. Name the most frequent causes of fire in the home and give examples of ways they can be prevented. Include a discussion about fires caused by smoking in the home, cooking, candles, fireplaces, and electrical appliances.

4. Do the following:

a. Explain the role of human behavior in the arson problem in this country. _____

b. List the actions that cause seasonal fires and explain how these fires can be prevented.

Home fire-drill schedule _____

- Conduct a home fire drill.
- b. Test a smoke alarm and demonstrate regular maintenance of a smoke alarm.
- c. Explain what to do when you smell gas and when you smell smoke. _____
Gas: _____

Smoke _____

- d. Explain how you would report a fire alarm. _____
- e. Explain what fire safety equipment can be found in public buildings. _____

- f. Explain who should use fire extinguishers and when these devices can be used. _____

- g. Explain how to extinguish a grease pan fire. _____

- h. Explain what fire safety precautions you should take when you are in a public building. _____

7. Do the following:
- a. Demonstrate lighting a match safely.
 - b. Demonstrate the safe way to start a charcoal fire.
 - c. Demonstrate the safe way to melt wax.

8. Explain the difference between combustible and noncombustible liquids and between combustible and noncombustible fabrics.

Liquids: _____

Fabrics: _____

9. Do the following:

- a. Demonstrate the safe way to fuel a lawn mower.
- b. Demonstrate the safety factors, such as proper ventilation, for auxiliary heating devices and the proper way to fuel those devices. _____

10. Do the following:

- a. Explain the cost of outdoor and wildland fires and how to prevent them.

Cost: _____

How to prevent them: _____

- b. Demonstrate setting up and putting out a cooking fire.
- c. Demonstrate using a camp stove and lantern.
- d. Explain how to set up a campsite safe from fire. _____

11. Visit a fire station.

Identify the types of fire trucks. _____

Find out about the fire prevention activities in your community: _____

12. Choose a fire safety related career that interests you and describe the level of education required and responsibilities of a person in that position.

Career: _____

Education: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Tell why this position interests you. _____

Requirement resources can be found here:
http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Fire_Safety#Requirement_resources

Sample Home Safety Checklist

Check safety steps that being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail.
- Stairs/halls are kept free from boxes, toys, brooms, tools, etc.
- Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

Kitchen

- Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- Pot holders are within easy reach.
- A fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

Bathroom

- Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- Poisons are marked, sealed shut, and out of reach of children.
- Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- No one takes medicine in the dark.

Attic and Basement

- Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

Living Room and Dining Room

- Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.
- Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from.
- Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.
- Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use.

Bedroom

- Smoke alarm has fresh battery or electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- Bar across bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- Sturdily screen low windows to prevent children from falling.
- Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

Nursery

- Bars on cribs are closely spaced.
- Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- Toys are sturdy & have no sharp edges.
- Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

Sample Home Safety Checklist

Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters

- ___ Stoves are away from curtains.
- ___ Stoves & furnaces are inspected & cleaned annually.
- ___ Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- ___ Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- ___ Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- ___ Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- ___ Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- ___ Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- ___ A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.

Porch, Yard, and Garage

- ___ Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- ___ Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- ___ Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- ___ Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- ___ Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- ___ Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- ___ Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- ___ Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- ___ An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- ___ Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

Electrical Devices and Fixtures

- ___ Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- ___ Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.
- ___ Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- ___ All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.
- ___ Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- ___ Unused, open, screw-type sockets are plugged closed.
- ___ Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- ___ Long trailing cords are not in evidence.
- ___ Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- ___ UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- ___ Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- ___ Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- ___ Circuit breakers are not overloaded.

Workshop

- ___ Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding.
- ___ Safety goggles and/or face mask are available, with eyewash.
- ___ Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- ___ All electrical tools are either three-wire or double-insulated.
- ___ Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- ___ All tools have a place & are in their place.
- ___ Guards are in place on all power tools.
- ___ A push stick is available for use with power saws.

General

- ___ At least one smoke detector in each bedroom & garage.
- ___ Everything has a place and is in its place.
- ___ Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- ___ Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- ___ Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- ___ Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- ___ Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- ___ Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- ___ Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- ___ All shoes are in good repair.
- ___ Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- ___ Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- ___ Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- ___ Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- ___ Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- ___ Fire extinguishers are readily available.

For Emergency

- ___ Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- ___ Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- ___ First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- ___ Know basic first aid procedures.
- ___ Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- ___ Emergency water supply.
- ___ Handheld flashlights readily available.
- ___ In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls

Important excerpts from the [‘Guide To Advancement’](#), No. 33088:

Effective January 1, 2012, the ‘Guide to Advancement’ (which replaced the publication ‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’) is now the official Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

- **[Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4] — Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**
No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.
(There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)
- **[Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1] — The [‘Guide to Safe Scouting’](#) Applies**
Policies and procedures outlined in the ‘Guide to Safe Scouting’, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]
- **[7.0.3.1] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**
Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative —or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge— along with him attending the session. When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult certification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.
- **[7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction**
It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout — actually and *personally*— completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.
- **[7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions**
Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished — a “partial.” In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, he or she does not retain the counselor’s portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.